

Hawaii MARINE LIFESTYLES

HAWAII MARINE B SECTION

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JANUARY 18, 2008

Above it all

Christine Cabalo

Photojournalist

HONOLULU — High above the waters of Honolulu Harbor stands the Aloha Tower along with the clock that has kept perfect time for the past 81 years. Opened Sept. 11, 1926, the tower that has been the control center for ships entering Hawaii also offers a panoramic 360-degree view of Honolulu's waterfront and financial district.

The cream-colored gothic building and its 12-foot clock was the tallest structure in the state from the time of its construction until 1970. And, although it can no longer boast of being the tallest, the Aloha Tower can certainly boast about its decades old elevator. As visitors have done since 1920, today's visitors to the tower can take that same elevator to a height of more than 184 feet to the 10th floor observation deck where they will delight in the unobstructed view of Honolulu Harbor and the Hawaii Maritime Museum.

"When they say 'Aloha,' they mean it," wrote Mr. and Mrs. Chad Dhain in the tower's guest book during their 1929 visit.

Although the tower sees more than 100 visitors to its 10th floor observation deck daily, other levels are not accessible to the public.

The historic 10-story tower houses local businesses and government workspaces, including harbor traffic control.

Perry Oda, a harbor traffic control supervisor who has worked in the building for the past 15 years, monitors Honolulu Harbor boat traffic from the Department of Transportation's offices located directly below the tower's clock room.

Because of its age, the tower is included in the National Register of Historic Places and preserved to look as it did in the 1920s. Primarily maintained by DOT, Oda said the tower's appearance has only significantly changed once in its 80-year history.

"The tower actually got hit with enemy bullets during the Pearl Harbor attacks in 1941," he said.

For the duration of World War II, the tower was put into military service and camouflaged with green paint to prevent further attacks. In 1947 the paint was stripped from the building and the tower reopened to visitors a year later.

According to Oda, the tower is still a significant government resource as a control center for monitoring the harbor that serves as a gateway for goods that are delivered to Hawaii.

"Around 95 percent of anything you buy in the store or anything you pay money for, comes through Honolulu Harbor," said Oda. "Your bread and milk – anything – it comes through the harbor."

Many who work in Aloha Tower have a special appreciation for the building, like Godofredo Agabao, a security guard for the tower. On the job for two years, Agabao said he loves coming into work near the breezy harbor and meeting so many people. Niki Hayashi, harbor traffic controller, said she loves working in such a beautiful place.

"It's pretty cool to work in a historical building," said Hayashi. "You know it won't get torn down and the building will always be there."

She concluded, "The view from the tower is amazing."



The inner metal gears of the Aloha Tower clock take up an entire floor of the gothic building. Herman Allerstorfer, a jeweler from Kailua, has serviced the clock once a month since 1968.



A photographer takes several photographs from the Diamond Head section of the 10th floor observation deck. The tower has offered its visitors a 360-degree view of the Honolulu waterfront and skyline for the past 81 years.



At 184 feet tall, the Aloha Tower was built in 1926, completed in 1929 and is located at Honolulu Harbor, Pier 9. The 81-year-old tower has a 12-foot, solid brass clock that keeps accurate time - within a range of 30 seconds.

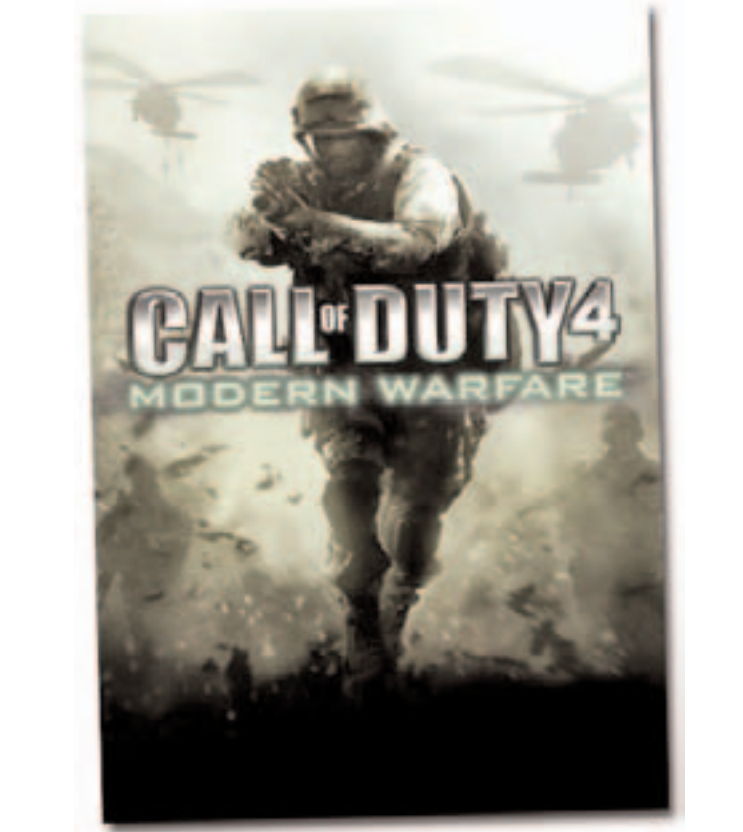


David Tanabe, archivist from the Hawaii State Archives, flips through a 1920s visitor book from Aloha Tower. The archives store the book, which lists the names of visitors from 1927 to 1929 and comments they made about their visit to the tower.

PASS

IN

REVIEW



ANSWER

THE CALL

Modern Warfare stands out among top new shooters

Lance Cpl. Brian A. Marion
Combat Correspondent

What do you get when you mix numerous weapons, a CH-46 Sea Knight helicopter, an M1A1 Abrams tank, a C-130 with a bloody huge cannon jutting from its side, some European special forces, a contingent of U.S. Marines, some Russians, Iraqis, a terrorist organization and a nuclear explosion inside a city? You get a great new shooter in Call of Duty 4: Modern Warfare.

The latest installment in the CoD series takes place in the Middle East and across Europe.

The game starts off with a practice area to get you used to the controls before placing you in a situation where you have to escape from a sinking ship while carrying important data for the Americans who are trying to liberate a country from terrorists.

The game also does something I've never seen done before. It kills off the character you play. Not once, but twice. (It may kill you more than that, but I haven't beaten the game yet.)

But those small details really aren't too important. The weapons, on the other hand, would make any gun nut drool. You have the standard M16-A4 assault rifles with various attachments, AK-47s, RPKs, M-249 Squad Automatic Weapons and several others.

They even give you the opportunity to shoot the MK-19 grenade launcher while flying around inside a helicopter.

On the other hand, if making an entrance with a bang, or a

few thousand rounds, doesn't strike your fancy, CoD4's single player campaign also includes missions that require you to sneak around in a guilley suit and shoot people's arms off with a 50 cal. sniper rifle.

The game mechanics aren't bad either. Enemies react to what you do in the game, making each scenario different from the ones before.

If you die and are forced to restart from the last checkpoint, be prepared to change your tactics, because it might not work a second or third time.

Not only does CoD4 have an enticing single player campaign, it also brings around an

exquisite multi-player experience by using several different game types for anyone to enjoy. Classic modes like deathmatch, team deathmatch and capture the flag, along with new, objective based matches.

In addition, the multiplayer game has added depth with a new ranking system where you gain experience and levels by defeating the enemy, allowing you to unlock bigger, meaner weapons.

All in all, the game is good. Is it 'buy it opening night and play it all night long even though you know you have PT and work the next morning good' just like Halo 3 was? Probably not, but it's well worth the \$60 for its experience.

With the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. coming up on Monday, it's been 44 years since his famous "I Have a Dream" Speech. Among other statements he remarked, "I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of it's creed: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal.'" Now, 44 years later, we're wondering ...

Do you believe this nation has fulfilled Dr. King's dream?

*[tôk stôreɪ] Hawaiian slang for an informal, lengthy conversation. Often used as a method to bond, or a good way to kill time.

Better Know A Critic

CABALO

Random 3 from top 10 bands
Smash Mouth, U2, TLC

A favorite song lyric
If those crumbs are all you want/ don't come in my restaurant.

Favorite videogame character
Princess Rosella (King's Quest)

deBREE

Random 3 from top 10 bands
Black Sabbath, Down, Social Distortion

A favorite song lyric
I live each day like it might be my last/ In this lifetime few things are worth fighting for/ My blood, your honor/ Everyone has a destiny.

Favorite videogame character
Mario ... Yahhhhhooooooooooooo! (The Super Mario Bros. series)

FAYLOGA

Random 3 from top 10 bands
The Smiths, Weezer, The Beatles

A favorite song lyric
Girlfriend in a coma/ I know/ I know/ It's serious.

Favorite videogame character
Link (The Legend of Zelda series)

GRIFFIN

Random 3 from top 10 bands
Dave Matthews Band, Sublime, ZZ Top

A favorite song lyric
Tell you what I want/ What I really, really want.

Favorite videogame character
N/A

GUARD

Random 3 from top 10 bands
Chris Brown, Blink 182, Black Eyed Peas

A favorite song lyric
Now that I've found someone/ I'm feeling more alone than I ever have before/ She's a brick and I'm drowning slowly.

Favorite videogame character
I don't know any Videogames

MARION

Random 3 from top 10 bands
Creed, Tim McGraw, Sammy Kershaw

A favorite song lyric
I can't stop this feeling/ Deep inside of me.

Favorite videogame character
The Arbiter (The Halo series)

MORA

Random 3 from top 10 bands
Nirvana, Bright Eyes, The White Stripes

A favorite song lyric
The world is a vampire.

Favorite videogame character
Alessa Gillespie (Silent Hill)

RUISI

Random 3 from top 10 bands
Tiger Army, Elvis, Billy Joel

A favorite song lyric
I'd rather laugh with the sinners than cry with the saints/ The sinners are much more fun/ Only the good die young.

Favorite videogame character
Princess Peach (The Super Mario Bros. series)

TSANTARLIOTIS

Random 3 from top 10 bands
Chimaira, John Mayall's Blues Breakers, Lamb of God

A favorite song lyric
I remember music, not the lyrics

Favorite videogame character
Bowser (The Super Mario Bros. series)



MUY CALIENTE

Mexican duo bring loco heat to music

Cpl. Chadwick deBree
Combat Correspondent

Most people who look through my MP3 player assume I like the harder stuff in the world of music.

However, if you were to look closely, you'd realize I have an ear for a wide variety of music. You would find stuff from Killswitch Engage and Shadows Fall to Social Distortion and the Vandals, to even stuff like Dean Martin and Amy Winehouse.

Today I'd like to introduce you to an item in my MP3 player I'd readily admit I'm a huge fan of -- Rodrigo y Gabriela.

I know, with the first look at the name you might think, "But deBree, I don't know Spanish and don't even like that Salsa music I used to hear blaring from my neighbor's garage from back home." Not to worry. They're nothing like that. Rodrigo y Gabriela is a guitar duo consisting of, well, Rodrigo and Gabriela. They come from the land down under, of the United States that is, called Mexico.

I remember I first heard of this duo when I walked through the music aisle of a local store. I saw the album cover of their self-titled first release, which has the picture of an alligator's eye.

I thought it was an awesome looking cover, but I looked at the name of the band, and the song titles and I automatically

assumed it wasn't for me. I'll admit I pigeonholed them into something I thought they were, which they aren't.

I recently found them in the "Most Anticipated Albums of 2008" in my favorite magazine, and that's when I first thought I may have been wrong about them.

That day I made my way back to the store to pick up their first album before their new one drops in stores later this year.

Within the first couple of notes of the first song, "Tamacun," I was hooked. Their musicianship is one to be reckoned with. I haven't heard something so new in a long time.

This was a fresh start for me in a new genre, and I'll be honest with you, these two are all over the scale when it comes to the timbre of music. They can play some really light songs and then transfer to really dark songs.

Just by listening to their songs you can really hear their hearts and souls put into making their music.

They even threw a couple of cover songs in just to give their

listeners a glimpse into bands that have inspired them, but they took those songs and added a twist. Songs like "Stairway to Heaven" and "Orion," they were able to almost transform into their own by adding a Latin twist.

There is no singing, just music, and their music will make your mind transcend into a place of bliss.

This duo is great to listen to after a long day of work, when you just want to sit down, enjoy a nice glass of (grape juice) and relax.

For those into the technical aspect of guitar playing, these two are amazing to watch on the strings. Their technique is unique and they even use thier guitars as drums. It's well worth a YouTube search.

I will definitely be waiting for their next album to come out this year, so I can see how far they'll take it musically.

This group will, hands down, be soothing to the ears and put your mind at ease.

Sneak Preview Quick Review

2/4: High and to the Right

Opening in theatres today, "27 Dresses" is your typical romantic comedy. Just like every chick flick before it, there is a likeable girl, who is hopelessly in love with an unobtainable guy, only to find out someone else is her true love. "27 Dresses" isn't anything new in the genre but there are a few genuine laughs and Katherine Heigl is charming enough to make even a clichéd movie watchable. In the broad world of filmmdom the flick would rate a one of four, but as a romantic comedy I'd give it a two. Not quite as good as "The Wedding Singer," but leaps ahead of "License to Wed." Look at it this way, if you take your wife or girlfriend to see this, she'll have to go with you to see the new "Rambo."

- Cpl. Fayloga

TALK* STORY

With the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. coming up on Monday, it's been 44 years since his famous "I Have a Dream" Speech. Among other statements he remarked, "I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of it's creed: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal.'" Now, 44 years later, we're wondering ...

Do you believe this nation has fulfilled Dr. King's dream?

We're getting there with equality and fair treatment of all races, but there's still discrimination that needs to be worked through. America has had more of an opportunity to start fresh because we're a younger country and have a good firm foot down on equality while some countries are just starting to get to that point.

- Petty Officer 3rd Class Marie A. Gaylord

"No, but I believe the dream is still alive. It's alive with certain people trying to do great things for this country, but with that there is the counterpart of bad people doing negative things. There has been improvement since Dr. King passed though."

- Cpl. Mike S. Ramos

"I'd say no. I don't think we've reached that point yet. It's getting better but I think we still have a long way to go. Each generation is doing better than the one before it."

- Sgt. Jamall L. Garrett

Desert Diaries

Lance Cpl. Alesha R. Guard

Combat Correspondent

Since 1965, the Marine Corps has effectively preserved its history through the Marine Corps Oral History Branch. The corps-wide program is conducted here by Capt. Diana Mearns, the historical program officer, who documents the accounts of Hawaii's service members. The warriors' stories are collected orally and join the ranks of thousands of Marines and Sailors who've come before them, dating back to the Vietnam War.

"Desert Diaries" tells the personal stories of pride and loyalty, humor and sadness, and the glory and horror of America's wars. The stories are provided by the base historian, and are published to help share our warriors' stories with the public.

Navy Lt. Robert J. Matyas II was influenced by a fellow colleague to join the Navy after his first year of medical school. Until medical school, he'd never considered the military, despite his father being in the Navy.

"It seemed to make a lot of sense to me for the first time in my life," Matyas said. "I knew I would be able to travel and see different parts of the world, and at least in part follow in my father's footsteps."

He was stationed in Naval Hospital Burlington, Washington, for his internship for a year after graduating medical school. Next was flight surgery school in Pensacola, Fla. Matyas then accepted a three-year tour here, where he serves as a flight surgeon, Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 362, Marine Aircraft Group 24.

In April 2007, Matyas deployed with this unit's main body as their flight surgeon.

"My mission was to ensure that the medical readiness of my squadron remained 98-plus percent and take care of all the day-to-day medical needs of all the pilots, aircrew and maintainers of my squadron," Matyas said.

Much of what he did on deployment was more than just sick call, however. He said he also believes his mission was to be the squadron morale officer.

When the squadron had downtime, he began to worry because that's often when depression may set in.

He said his job was to keep the squadron mentally positive, get them involved in activities and in touch with various relief programs.

"A corner in our medical facility was dedicated to relief packages, which kept the Marines coming in to see what 'Doc' got in

the mail," Matyas said. "In turn, I got to see how my Marines were doing from day-to-day, and learn what their individual needs or problems were."

A significant task Matyas recalls is treating Iraqi casualties, usually improvised explosive device victims, often civilians from the Baghdad area. They'd also have both American and Iraqi service members evacuated from a blast, who would come in with one or more limbs missing.

"Part of my squadron's mission, other than transporting troops and equipment to forward environments, would be to occasionally assist with the medical relief and transportation of Marines," Matyas said. "Treating the Iraqi casualties was a fight to save their life - a very rewarding and eye-opening event."

Events like these shattered his fears that war might change him for the worse.

"A part of me was worried I would come back a changed individual for the worse, and lose that sense of self," Matyas said. "But it was quite to the contrary. I gained perspective into my life. I gained appreciation for that which is important."

The squadron returned here in October, without losing anyone in the fight.

Back in Hawaii, Matyas is now a nominee



MATYAS

for the flight surgeon of the year award.

"For me, the biggest recognition was getting through the mission without any suicide attempts," Matyas said. "Everyone's medical readiness remained in tact, and we didn't lose anyone to the mission. That was reward enough."

A Day in the Life ...

Lance Cpl. Achilles Tsantarliotis

Combat Correspondent

Editor's note: A Day in the Life highlights military occupational specialties and Department of Defense jobs throughout the Marine Corps. This series gives appreciation to the thousands of service members, DoD employees and civilians who make Marine Corps Base Hawaii and installation of excellence.

"I was watching my field of fire in a turret with an unstoppable [M2 .50 Caliber Machine Gun] in front of me, ready to engage in any possible threats," said Lance Cpl. Andrew Ochoa. A fiery gaze arose in his eyes as he recalled a patrol in Iraq.

"I was part of the rear security element, assisting the rear vehicle and ensuring no unauthorized vehicles entered the convoy. We stopped to provide security at a [traffic control point], and we noticed the same vehicle conspicuously coming back and forth."

Ochoa was physically in front of me, but mentally he was manning a turret, remembering his brush with death.

"That same vehicle all of a sudden stopped; everything instantaneously became unusually slow, and exaggerated, and I remember just seeing flashes coming toward me, over me, to the left and right of me," Ochoa said. "I didn't understand what was happening at the moment, but my body did, and soon I found myself racking the bolt to the rear and returning fire, all while watching myself from a third person perspective."

Ochoa wasn't immediately scared. Only afterward he realized the severity of what might have, could have happened. Then he trembled.

Conventionally, a cannoneer isn't supposed to experience this perspective of warfare. However, because of the unconventional nature of the current war, and the "every Marine is a rifleman," motto he was afforded the opportunity, whether he wanted it or not.

According to his military occupational specialty description, 20-year-old Ochoa, field artillery cannoneer, Charlie Battery, 1st Battalion, 12th Marine

Regiment should be providing fire support from a remote location.

"A big reason I love this job so much," Ochoa explained, "is because we directly support the infantry. I think everything in the Marine Corps revolves around the 'grunts,' but we work directly with them, no middleman. It's a lot of pressure though; any mistakes on our end could potentially cost Marines their lives. That's primarily why we train so much, constantly relearning our job, and how to be as smooth and efficient as possible."

Ochoa entered the Marine Corps less than two years ago in an open contract, hoping he'd be put in an infantry unit. When he heard he had orders to Marine Combat Training he realized that wasn't happening, thinking he'd never do a job similar to what he did in Iraq.

"When I heard I was going to be in artillery, I thought 'that's pretty cool,'" Ochoa said. "I had seen some videos of guys firing [howitzers] in Iraq, and it looked like hardcore stuff. I also like the fact I'd be in a 'hands on' field, firing mammoth weapons and really just destroying [things]. The first time shooting the howitzer was incredible; after you hear the click, there's a pause that seems like eternity and then 'boom!' Your heart, chest ... actually,

your entire body, just rattles and even though you have hearing protection, all you hear is buzzing. I loved it."

The days in the rear go quickly, Ochoa said. After physical training in the morning, the day consists of weapon maintenance, preventive maintenance and refresher classes, constantly learning the ins and outs of their "mammoth weapon." With the new M-777 howitzer replacing their old weapons, there's plenty more to learn - not to mention ground warfare tactics necessary for missions in Iraq.

"I think anyone with a lot of heart and dedication could perform this job," said Staff Sgt. Joel Martinez, section chief, Charlie Battery, 1/12. "There's a lot to learn but at the same time it's mostly physical work. Like most Marines, you also need to be versatile. When I went into Fallujah [Iraq], we were providing fire support the first month. Then we were kicking in doors the next month. Even though it's a different job, you keep the same mindset; a combat mindset."

With another deployment coming up in October, Ochoa and the rest of 1/12 continue to learn their field and new weapon in an effort to be the most effective fire support they can be regardless of what role they'll perform in Iraq.



Lance Cpl. Achilles Tsantarliotis

Lance Cpl. Andrew Ochoa, field artilleryman, Charlie Battery, 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, sets up a new M-777 howitzer. Ochoa originally wanted to enlist as an infantryman but was thrilled to find out he'd be firing howitzers for a living.



Air Force Staff Sgt. D. Myles Cullen

General David Petraeus, commander, Multi-National Force—Iraq (right), and former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Peter Pace, discuss the situation on the ground in Iraq as they helicopter to the Green Zone in Baghdad, July 16, 2007.

The Middle East in Brief ...

Commentary, analysis and short lessons on politics, history and current events in the Middle East

Ken Griffin

Managing Editor

Gen. Petraeus, the surge and 2008

When Gen. David Petraeus took command of Multi-National Force - Iraq in February, there was certainly a positive buzz surrounding the man the media described as a "warrior poet" - the man who literally wrote the book on counterinsurgency (Petraeus coauthored the Counterinsurgency Field Manual with Gen. James N. Mattis).

Could Petraeus really make a difference? After President George W. Bush's January 2007 announcement of a "troop surge," a lot of folks serving and working in Iraq believed that yes, he could.

With extra troops, the general began supplementing the Iraqi-led Baghdad Security Plan, also known as Fardh al-Qanoon. The plan divided Baghdad into districts, where Iraqi Security Forces and U.S. troops would go in to clear areas of insurgent activity, sectarian militias and criminals. To ensure the riffraff stayed out, U.S. and ISF elements established Joint Security Stations, which are basically the Iraqi equivalent of community policing tactics used in high-crime areas of U.S. cities.

With Coalition Forces going into new areas and exposing themselves in the community, violence actual-

See ANALYSIS, B-5

MOVIE TIME

Prices: Friday and Saturday 7:15 p.m., shows are \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children. Sunday matinee is shown at 2 p.m. Shows are \$2 for adults and \$1 for children. Evening showings on Sunday and Wednesday are at 6:30 p.m. and late shows are shown Friday and Saturday at 9:45 p.m. Cost is \$2 for adults and \$1.50 for children.

For ticket pricing, the Base Theater Box Office defines an adult as a patron 12 and older and defines a child as a patron from 6 to 11. Children 5 and younger are admitted free of charge. Parents must purchase tickets for R-rated movies in person at the box office for children 16 and younger. Patrons must present their military identification card when purchasing tickets. Call 254-7642 for recorded information.

Sneak Preview Policy: One hour and 45 minutes prior to the movie, tickets will be issued to first priority patrons waiting in line, then second and third priority patrons.

In an effort to prevent piracy, the following security measures will be enforced on base for sneak preview screenings: bag checks, confiscation of cameras or cell phones with picture taking capability (items will be returned after screening), magnetometer wand, audience scanning with night vision goggles during screening.

The Base Theater and film companies thank you in advance for your cooperation and hope you will enjoy the show. For recorded information, call the Base Theater at 254-7642.

The Golden Compass (PG13)
Stephen King's "The Mist" (R)
August Rush (PG)
Hitman (R)
Alvin & the Chipmunks (PG)
The Golden Compass (PG13)
August Rush (PG)
Alvin & the Chipmunks (PG)
Hitman (R)

Today at 7:15 p.m.
Today at 9:45 p.m.
Saturday at 7:15 p.m.
Saturday at 9:45 p.m.
Sunday at 2 p.m.
Sunday at 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.
Friday at 7:15 p.m.
Friday at 9:45 p.m.

SPOTLIGHT ON BASE

Word to Pass

Bellows AFS is Hiring

Bellows Air Force Station is currently seeking energetic and well-spoken candidates for: outdoor recreation assistant; recreation aide; cashier; laborers; front desk; reservations; and, housekeeping.

Applicants must possess good customer service skills, and will preferably have previous experience.

For more information, call (808) 259-4105 or visit <http://www.nfajobs.com>.

Youth Art Lessons

As of Wednesday, Linda Read, a local art teacher and artist, is teaching art classes for youth Wednesday afternoons and evenings at the Youth Activities Building. The cost is \$95, which includes materials, and there is a 10-student maximum per class. Register at Building 1090B.

For more information, contact Youth Activities at 254-7610.

Ice Palace Trip

Youth Activities is sponsoring a trip to the Ice Palace Jan. 25 from 5 to 10:30 p.m. The trip is open to all CYTP youth members, age 10 and older. Cost is \$8, which includes transportation, admission and skate rental.

For more information, contact Youth Activities at 254-7610.

Retirement Transition Assistance Program Seminar

All retiring service members must attend RTAP prior to retirement. The next RTAP is Jan. 28-31 at Building 279, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. If you are retiring within two years, you can attend and must attend no later than 90 days prior to retirement.

For more information, contact your unit transition counselor or Ric Paguio at 257-7790.

Denver Bronco Cheerleaders Demo for Youth

There will be a free cheerleading demonstration for all base youth today at 3:30 p.m. in Building 1090B. Children under 10 need adult supervision to attend.

For more information, contact Youth Activities at 254-7610.

Outdoor Movie for Youth

“High School Musical II” is showing outdoors at the Teen Center tonight at 7 p.m. The free event includes popcorn for all moviegoers, and is open to youth of all ages. Children under 10 need adult supervision.

For more information, contact Youth Activities at 254-7610.

Bosses Night at Kahuna’s

Come enjoy an evening of pupus and camaraderie at Kahuna’s Bar and Grill Feb. 5 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. The event is open to all E-5s and below and their sponsored guests.

For more information, call Alexis Swenson at 254-7660.

New Arrivals Brief

All new active duty personnel must attend the New Arrivals Brief, with the next brief going Feb. 7 from 7:30 a.m. to noon at the Base Theater. The brief provides information about policies, services and programs aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii. Family members and newly-employed MCBH civilians can also attend.

For more information, contact Marine & Family Services at 257-7790.

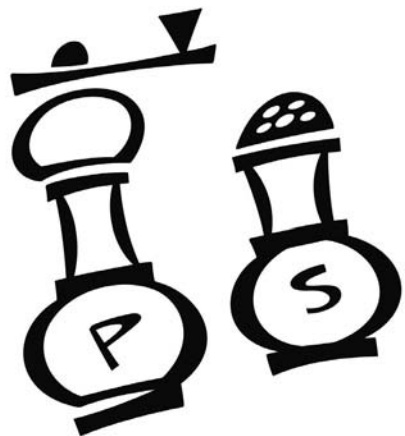
Pacific Islands Arts Festival

The Saturday through Sunday festival is presented annually at Kapiolani Park, near the bandstand across from the Honolulu Zoo, and features made-in-Hawaii products from 100 multi-ethnic fine artists and handcraft artisans. It also includes “make it and take it” lei stands, hula performances, Hawaiian music and food and snacks. Admission is free.

For more information, call 696-6717.

On the Menu AT ANDERSON HALL

Friday <i>Lunch</i> Pepper steak Baked fish w/garlic butter Rice pilaf Potatoes au gratin Glazed carrots Simmered black eyed peas Cream gravy Lemon chiffon pie Chocolate chip cookies Marble cake with chocolate frosting Vanilla/chocolate cream pudding Lime/raspberry gelatin	Monday <i>Dinner</i> Meat loaf Pork ham roast Tossed green rice Mashed potatoes Peas & mushrooms French fried cauliflower Brown gravy Boston cream pie Peanut butter cookies Peanut butter cake Peanut butter cream frosting Vanilla/chocolate cream pudding Lime/raspberry gelatin	Vanilla/chocolate cream pudding Lime/raspberry gelatin
<i>Dinner</i> Roast turkey Beef pot pie Mashed potatoes Buttered egg noodles Calico corn Simmered broccoli Savory bread dressing Turkey gravy Cranberry sauce Desserts: same as lunch	Tuesday <i>Lunch</i> Simmered corn beef w/apple glaze Honey glazed Cornish hens Parsley buttered potatoes Rice pilaf Fried cabbage w/bacon Simmered carrots Chicken gravy Mustard sauce Blueberry pie Oatmeal cookies Strawberry shortcake Vanilla/chocolate cream pudding Cherry/strawberry parfait	Thursday <i>Lunch</i> Turkey a la king Beef stroganoff Steamed rice Boiled egg noodles Peas & carrots Simmered mixed vegetables Turkey gravy Peach pie Cheese cake w/blueberry top Chewy nut bars White cake Mocha cream frosting Chocolate/vanilla cream pudding Orange/strawberry gelatin
Saturday <i>Dinner</i> Baked lasagna Chicken parmesan Spaghetti noodles Marinara sauce Italian mixed vegetables Simmered peas and carrots Garlic bread Cherry pie Ginger molasses cookies Spice cake w/butter cream frosting Vanilla/chocolate cream pudding Strawberry/lemon gelatin	<i>Dinner</i> Baked tuna and noodles Sweet and sour pork Pork fried rice Steamed rice Simmered broccoli Simmered pinto beans Turkey gravy Chow mein noodles Desserts: same as lunch	<i>Dinner</i> Braised liver w/onions Honey ginger chicken Chili macaroni Grilled cheese sandwich Rice pilaf Boiled egg noodles Lyonnais carrots Club spinach Chicken gravy Desserts: same as lunch
Sunday <i>Dinner</i> Barbeque beef cubes Baked turkey and noodles Steamed rice Creole green beans Simmered cabbage Chicken gravy Sweet potato pie Chocolate chip cookies Yellow cake w/chocolate chip frosting Vanilla/chocolate cream pudding Cherry/orange gelatin	Wednesday <i>Lunch</i> Five spice chicken Beef yakisoba Shrimp fried rice Vegetable stir fry Corn o'brien Banana cream pie Oatmeal chocolate chip cookies Carrot cake with cream cheese frosting	



FREE OUTDOOR MOVIE

AT THE TEEN CENTER, BLDG. 1090B

Tonight at 7 p.m.

FREE Popcorn

*** Movie will move into teen center if it rains**

For more information, call youth activities at 254-7610.

MARINE MAKEPONO HAWAIIAN FOR “MARINE BARGAINS”

FOR RENT

and more. 1824A Harris Ave on base.

Studio apartment, large deck, view of Kaneohe Bay and Chinaman's Hat, private, quiet, covered parking, kitchenette, \$1,300 per month. Call 239-5459.

MISCELLANEOUS

Stampin Up, Tatouage (dry rub transfers), 2-year-old commercial washer and dryer, Call 372-8088 or 254-1618.

Kenmore 70 series washer and 80 series dryer, both heavy duty, super capacity, \$350 each or \$600 for both. Call 841-5907.

Simmons Pillowtop queen mattress, 3-years-old, \$200. Other items available. Call 341-5907.

YARD SALES

Saturday, 7:30 a.m. to completion, two families, baby stuff, household goods

Saturday, 8 a.m. to noon, Stampin Up stamp sets, Tatouage dry rub transfers, portable desk air conditioner, washer and dryer, barstools, kitchenware, entertainment cabinet, clothes and more. 1772 Lawrence Road on base.

Ads are accepted from active duty and retired military personnel, their family members and MCB Hawaii civil service employees. Ads are free and will appear in two issues of Hawaii Marine, on a space-available basis.

Those interested in advertising must bring a valid DoD-issued ID to the Hawaii Marine Office.

Makepono may be used only for noncommercial classified ads containing items of personal property.

Forms may be filled out Monday through Friday between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at the MCB Hawaii Public Affairs Office located in Building 216, room 19, aboard Marine Corps Base, Kaneohe Bay.

ANALYSIS, from B-1

ly went up. But as the last surge units arrived in Iraq and the tactics began taking hold, violence astoundingly dropped across the board in the last part of the year.

High-profile attacks, such as car bombs, are down 60 percent since March 2007, and civilian deaths are down 75 percent since a year ago, according to Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates. And, 2007 ended with 21 U.S. troops killed by hostile fire in December, versus an average of more than 100 troop deaths per month for the first part of the year.

For the first time since the war's start, more refugees and internally displaced individuals are returning to their homes rather than leaving.

According to the Iraqi Red Crescent, 46,000 refugees returned to Iraq between September and December from Syria alone.

The IRC noted this was due to the noticeably improved security situation. The Iraqi government, pressed to provide services for the refugees, claims the number is even higher. Displacement and Migration Minister Abdul Samad Sultan told Reuters in November that as many as 1,600 refugees were returning every day.

So with the reduction in violence and Iraqis returning home, where does Iraq stand on the political reconciliation Petraeus says is necessary for the surge to be a success?

Up to this point, there hasn't been much. The Iraqi government hasn't met many of the benchmarks the U.S. had hoped for.

The draft oil law, which would pump life into the Iraqi economy and help divide wealth amongst the people, is still just a draft. Laws on provincial elections (similar to the U.S.'s states' rights issue) and constitutional reform also remain stalled.

But, there may be a light at the end of the tunnel. Just as it took time for new security policies to affect peace, it also took time for political progress.

This week, Iraqi politicians cleared a major benchmark by passing the de-Baathification law, clearing the road for low-level Baath Party officials to get their jobs back.

This is a major development for three reasons.

First, a large part of the insurgency consists of Sunnis who lost their government positions after Saddam's fall.

They worked in strategic positions within the intelligence community, army and police, and add dangerous technical proficiency to anti-Coalition/anti-Iraqi forces. With the de-Baathification law passed, these Sunnis will hopefully return to the fold.

Second, many of these Baath Party Sunnis worked in positions that need their knowledge and experience – health services, transportation and the list goes on. Now that they are able to return, a lot of sectors should get bumps in brainpower.

Lastly, the passing of this law will reduce sectarian violence and increase reconciliation between disheartened Sunnis and the Shiite majority government.

Frankly, a gainfully employed person has less time and desire to blow things up.

Iraq certainly has many more challenges to face and a long road to travel. But in the meantime, has Petraeus positively influenced change?

Is the surge working? Yes, he certainly has, and yes it is. The statistics and headlines speak for themselves.

(Editor's note: The author worked as a media analyst and consultant under Gen. Petraeus and MNF-I from February to May 2007.)



- HOW TO TELL
YOUR COMM IS GOING DOWN-

Marine Corps Base Hawaii Command Religious Program

RECURRING RELIGIOUS MINISTRIES ACTIVITIES

RELIGIOUS SUPPORT

Roman Catholic (MCBH Chapel)

Daily Mass	Tuesday–Friday	11:45 a.m.
Sunday Mass	Sunday	9:30 a.m.
Sailor–Marine Mass	Sunday	5 p.m.

Protestant (MCBH Chapel)

Liturgical Service	Sunday	8 a.m.
Contemporary Service	Sunday	11 a.m.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

POC is Chaplain Daniel Whitaker at MCBH Chapel, 257-1501/216-0156

Jewish

Aloha Jewish Chapel Pearl Harbor (Bldg. 708) located across from Makalapa Medical Clinic
POC is Mr. Daniel Bender, 523-4814

Jewish Bible Study	Monday	6:30 p.m.
Kabbalat Shabbat	Friday	7:30 p.m.
Shabbat Morning Services	Saturday	8:15 p.m.

Wiccan Fellowship

Contact Chapel for more information

Islam

Main Post Chapel, Schofield Barracks (Bldg. 791)
POC SSgt Abdelwahed, 624-3325

(Jumah) Prayer	Friday	1 p.m.
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Sgt. McKenzie Coffman

Sergeant Scott Whittington swims near the base of a waterfall in Waimea Falls Park near North Shore Jan. 12. This trip was arranged by the Single Marine and Sailor Program.

Ice Palace Outing January 25

Open to ages 10-17
Children, Teen, Youth
Program Members Only
\$8 Admission
(Doesn't include meal)

Bus departs K-Bay
at 5 p.m.
and returns
at 8:30 p.m.

Dress for warmth

For more
information, call Youth
Activities at 254-7610.

AROUND THE CORPS

First sergeant sets education example

Lance Cpl. Stephen C. Benson
U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Special Operations Command

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. — Know yourself and seek self improvement. It's a common phrase heard throughout the Corps, said by leaders to inspire or placed on posters or power point presentations to motivate.

Some Marines passively acknowledge the advice and move on, but others apply it and set an example for others to follow.

First Sgt. Adam M. Caetta, Logistics Company first sergeant, Marine Special Operations Support Group, U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Special Operations Command, set a self-improvement example worth emulating. He joined the Marine Corps more than 18 years ago with the intent of earning a college degree and pursued higher education as a lance corporal.

Now, Caetta has a master's degree in business administration with a concentration in human resource management from American Military University.

Caetta was able to pay for his classes by using tuition assistance and the G.I. bill. His desire to be competitive and remain one step ahead of his peers drove him to take the classes.

"I felt that in order to be competitive for promotion, I needed to do anything and everything above and beyond what was expected," Caetta said. "Pursuing my off-duty education was just one of the things I did."

Coming from the administration military occupational specialty, Caetta felt business administration would be an appropriate degree to pursue. He chose a concentration in human resource management because of his desire to help people and his belief in the importance of customer service.

"It has helped me tune in to being a better people person, a better problem solver," Caetta said.

Before coming to MARSOC in April 2007, Caetta worked for Capt. Linda Philipp, the II Marine Expeditionary Force Family Readiness Officer, as an administration chief. Philipp saw Caetta's people skills firsthand.

"[Caetta] always put other's needs before his own," Philipp said. "Any time I asked something of him, he would always go above and beyond to get the job done."

Philipp was also impressed with Caetta's commitment to education.

"I would often see him after hours working on homework," Philipp explained. "He worked hard on school but always took good care of his family and his Marines."

Caetta believes he can be an example to younger Marines who want to get a degree while still on active duty.

"It's not a secret that when you transition from military to civilian life, no matter how long you decide to stay in, you need to possess as many things as possible to make that transition seamless," Caetta said. "You can't guarantee success when you retire or when you [get out], but you can guarantee that you have enough items in your tool belt to ensure the greatest chance of success."

According to Caetta, the Marines around him pushed

him to better himself. His senior Marines and peers made sure he did all of his work during the duty day, but also asked him what he was doing on his own to improve.

The decision to pursue higher education was obvious, Caetta explained, and he would like to see more Marines seek out college courses and eventual degrees.

The first place degree-seeking Marines need to go is the education center. Education counselors are available to help select a college and course of study and to guide the way to effective use of tuition assistance and other education benefits.

"The Marines Corps guarantees you a place to live, a paycheck every two weeks, and you take advantage of those. So why in the world wouldn't you take advantage of a free education?" Caetta said. "You have to assert yourself and strive to be better and get out of the Marine Corps better than when you came in."



Lance Cpl. Stephen C. Benson

First Sgt. Adam M. Caetta, Logistics Company first sergeant, Marine Special Operations Support Group, U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Special Operations Command, talks to one of his Marines about education in his office. Caetta recently received his master's degree in business administration with a concentration in human resource management from the American Military University.